Highlands of New York, May 3. 1782.

Dear Sir,

I was in hopes long ere this time to have paid my respects to you personally in Boston, but have been disappointed. When I shall have that honor is uncertain — Impressed with the warmest sentiments of friendship, which neither time or distance can abate I cannot omit so favorable an opportunity as offers by Doctor Whitwell to express their lively continuance in my breast, and my ardent wishes for the honor, health and happiness of yourself and family. — I most heartily congratulate you on the surrender of the whole island of Minorca to the Spanish arms. This fortunate event will tend to lower the pride of Britain, and in its consequences prove advantageous to our cause. Affairs also wear a pleasing aspect in the West-indies — the enemy are in the most painful anxiety for the fate of their islands. In New York they are encreasing and strengthening their works with great assiduity, and are very apprehensive of being attacked in their strong holds the approaching campaign. Whether they will evacuate Charlestown or not, is yet uncertain. — I am sorry to find the enemy too successful against our trade — numbers of prizes are almost daily sent into New York.

I hope in a short time to congratulate you on your re-election to the first seat of government, in which, be assured

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now

none will more heartily participate.

Please present my most respectful compliments to your amiable lady, your little son, whom heaven preserve — your brother, &c.

I have the honor to be,

With the greatest respect and esteem,

Dear Sir

Your obedient servant,

J Heath

P.S. Since writing the above, I have received a New York paper of the 30th ultimo, which gives an account that the Duke of Cumberland packet, captain Bashwood, arrived at New York last Sunday in six weeks from Falmouth, in England, with the March mail. The paper contains some most interesting debates in the two houses of the British parliament, in the house of lords on the 7th of February, and in the house of commons on the 27th of the same month. A motion was made in the latter by general Conway for leave to bring in a bill to enable the king to make peace with America — the ministry endeavoured to get rid of the motion by an adjournment, but on a division — the ayes were 215 noes 234 — a majority of 19 — The house immediately, although half after one, resumed the debate. The ministry finding so great a majority, gave up the main question without a division, and the house adjourned at two. The 28th the attorney-general said he should move for leave to bring in the bill, &c. — the whole complexion of the debates look very favorable. However, as distress

is

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is the mother of security, every exertion should be continued until a safe and honorable peace is ratified – Then with the highest pleasure and satisfaction will we quit the field to partake with our friends, the balmy sweets of domestic life; – for which none more ardently wishes than Yours

as before –

W Heath

I would send you the paper but must transmit it to head quarters.

Major General Heath

May 9 1782

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